

SENATE No. 64

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joanne M. Comerford

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to support families.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	
<i>Joanne M. Comerford</i>	<i>Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester</i>	
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>	<i>2/15/2023</i>

SENATE No. 64

By Ms. Comerford, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 64) of Joanne M. Comerford and Jason M. Lewis for legislation to support families. Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court
(2023-2024)**

An Act to support families.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The first paragraph of subsection (a) of section 51A of chapter 119 of the
2 General Laws, as appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out, in
3 line 6, the words:- ; (iii) physical dependence upon an addictive drug at birth.

4 SECTION 2. Said section 51A of said chapter 119, as so appearing, is hereby further
5 amended by inserting after subsection (a) the following subsection:-

6 (a^{1/2}) Separate from the reporting requirements under subsection (a), health care providers
7 involved in the delivery or care of infants affected by in-utero substance exposure or a fetal
8 alcohol spectrum disorder, shall notify the department of such condition in such infants as
9 required under 42 U.S.C. § 1506a(b)(2)(B)(ii). Such notification shall not include the names or
10 identifying information of the parents or the infant, shall not constitute a report that any parent
11 has abused or neglected a child, and shall not trigger or require prosecution for any illegal action.